

fortunate enough to have organizations like the Southern Appalachian Labor School, Fayette Environmentally Safe Housing, and Americorps volunteers to repair and remodel homes for low income families. With project partners and community support, West Virginia families may live in a safe, clean environment.

Another Americorps program, Project HEALTH [Health Education Associates Learning to Teach Health], encourages healthy diets and lifestyles while increasing public awareness on health issues. Through a learn and serve america higher education grant, Project HEALTH and Americorps volunteers have a profound impact on rural communities. As a result of their hard work, communities have reduced illnesses and injuries, increased immunizations for children, improved the diets for high risk individuals, and reduced the number of low birth weight babies.

While working class families struggle to find adequate child care and affordable health insurance, the cost of living rises. Parents must provide more than the basic needs for their families. However, with the aid of the Regional Family Resource Network and Americorps, these services become a reality. Immunizations, developmental screening, and after school services are available to families in Kanawha, Clay, and Boone counties in West Virginia. Preventive medicine, medical attention, and a safe environment for children after school are vital to raising healthy children.

To help victims of domestic violence, the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence provides food and shelter, legal assistance, support, and counseling. With the assistance of Americorps volunteers, there are programs in Beckley, Charleston, Elkins, Huntington, Keyser, Lewisburg, Morgantown, Sutton, Welch, Wheeling, and Williamson. Emergency hot lines, resources, and counseling services are offered by the coalition also. Educating women about the warning signals and teaching them ways to avoid violent situations can prevent abusive behavior and possibly death. In West Virginia, there are twelve shelters providing services to victims.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the volunteers and employees who dedicate their lives to public service, and I'd like to thank the community for their support and involvement in Americorps projects. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated by all. With your help, our state has been able to improve the quality of life for West Virginians and to increase the opportunities for them in the future.●

#### RETIREMENT OF DR. RICHARD LESHNER FROM THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

● Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Richard Leshner the retiring president of the

U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Leshner, who was chosen as president of the Chamber in 1975 as served the Chamber with both pride and dignity for over 21 years. His service to the business community will be remembered.

During his tenure, Dr. Leshner helped the Chamber's membership to grow to include 215,000 business members, 3,000 local chambers of commerce and 1,200 trade and professional organizations. His work on behalf of the business community in promoting common sense reforms and tax cuts has benefitted the entire country.

Dr. Leshner has served the business community with true integrity.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Dr. Leshner great success in his future endeavors. I know that he will continue to contribute his time and talent to his fellow man even in his retirement.●

#### SONY FEST '97

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I want to commend the Sony Technology Center as it celebrates 25 years of success and partnership in San Diego.

In honor of this milestone, Sony is holding a four-day gala, Sony Fest '97. Scheduled events include the grand opening of the Technology Center's newest building (nicknamed "genesis"), a keynote address by Sony Corporation President Nobuyuki Idei, business and technical symposiums, even carnival activities for children and families. Sony Fest '97 promises to be quite a party!

Sony began in San Diego by constructing a color television assembly plant in 1972, making it the first Japanese electronics company to establish television production in the United States. Sony has been going full steam ahead in San Diego ever since. Today, 25 million television picture tubes, 14 million "Made in San Diego" televisions, and almost \$500 million in capital investments later, Sony continues to explore new horizons. It now manufactures a variety of electronic products from its trademark Trinitron televisions to computer picture tubes and peripherals. In fact, Sony San Diego is currently the only U.S. manufacturer of Computer cathode ray tubes or CRTs.

Although an international company, Sony takes pride in its efforts to respond to local and national concerns. Where possible, Sony buys and sells domestically, if not locally. For example, Sony estimates that 90 percent of the materials used in its television picture tubes come from domestic sources, and that 80 percent of finished Trinitron sets manufactured in North America are sold in the U.S. Sony San Diego is also very active in the community and in the fight for more environmentally friendly business practices.

I think all in San Diego would agree: Sony is a great neighbor. For 25 years its presence has helped make San

Diego a better place to live, work and conduct business. It is a pleasure to come to the Senate today and wish all involved a very enjoyable Sony Fest '97.●

#### TRIBUTE TO OUTSTANDING SENATE STAFFER BYRA KITE

● Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated his time, efforts and immeasurable talents to Wyoming politics. I am speaking of Byra Kite, whom I have known and respected for many years, and have had the pleasure of having as a member of my staff since I joined the Senate in 1994.

Byra is retiring, and I would like to take this time to publicly thank him for all his hard work. He has served Wyoming well, and I am not alone in saying he is one of our State's finest sons.

In 1965, Byra came to the Cowboy State from California to play football for the University of Wyoming. During that time, he was an All-Conference and All-American member of three conference champion teams, including the undefeated 1967 Cowboy team that played in the Sugar Bowl. Later this year, that team will be inducted into the University of Wyoming Hall of Fame. Following graduation he decided to stay in Wyoming. In Laramie he found his home, and his passion for politics.

He made his first foray into the national political arena in 1976 when he managed Malcolm Wallop's initial run for the Senate. Malcolm won, defeating a three term incumbent senator, and Byra began a 20 year career of helping Wyoming Republicans shape their campaigns and win elections. His tireless work, dedication and vision broke new ground in terms of modern campaigning.

In 1977 Byra began 18 years of service as Senator Wallop's State Director. During that time he helped hundreds of Wyoming folks in their dealings with the federal government. Following Malcolm's retirement, Byra joined our staff, and continued his outstanding brand of public service to Wyoming people. He, and his talents, will truly be missed.

And so, Mr. President, I am joined by Senators Wallop, Simpson, ENZI and Representative BARBARA CUBIN—all of whom have been touched by Byra's hard work and dedication—in saying not only thank you, but good luck to a trusted advisor and friend.●

#### TRIBUTE TO WALT DIBBLE

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, for most Americans, mornings are a time of routines. People like to eat the same thing for breakfast, drink their coffee with just the right amount of cream and sugar, and duck out the door at the same time every day. Over the past 40 years, a central part of the morning routine for thousands of Connecticut